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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,811	09/05/2003	Carey E. Garibay	BEAS-01454US2	7109
23910	7590	12/18/2006	EXAMINER	
FLIESLER MEYER LLP 650 CALIFORNIA STREET 14TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108			BACKER, FIRMIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/655,811

Applicant(s)

GARIBAY ET AL.

Examiner

FIRMIN BACKER

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-30 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-27 of copending Application No. 10/655,713. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Narin et al (U.S. PG Pub 2004/0158709).

5. As per claim 1, Narin et al teach a method comprising: maintaining digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses; accessing a group administration application to set the access rules for members of a group, the access rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group; and using the access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

6. As per claim 2, 3, Narin et al teach a method wherein the access rules can be set to allow some group members to see but not to modify the software license data, to restrict access based upon inputted field information to some group members (*see paragraphs 0154*).

7. As per claim 4, Narin et al teach a method wherein the inputted field information is a department field and the access rules are such that some group members can only access software license information associated with their department (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

8. As per claim 5, Narin et al teach a method wherein the group administration application can be used to require group members to input field data (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

9. As per claim 6, Narin et al teach a method wherein selected access rules can allow a group member to access a digital record and adjust the rights associated with the software license (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

10. As per claims 7-9, Narin et al teach a method wherein the group administration application is adapted to allow the production of reports concerning the software licenses of the group, part of a web based application uses role based security (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

11. As per claim 10, Narin et al teach a method wherein configuration information for the computers running the software are stored in the digital records (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

12. As per claim 11, Narin et al teach a license management system comprising: a memory adapted to store digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with a software licenses; and a processor adapted to execute a group administration application for setting the access rules for members of a group, the rules

controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group, wherein the access rules are used to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

13. As per claims 12, 13, Narin et al teach a license management system wherein the access rules can be set to allow some group members to see but not to modify the software license data, to restrict access based upon inputted field information to some group members (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

14. As per claim 14, Narin et al teach a license management system wherein the inputted field information is a customer defined field and the access rules are such that some group members can only access software license information associated with the customer definition (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

15. As per claim 15, Narin et al teach a license management system wherein the group administration application can be used to require group members to input field data (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

16. As per claim 16, Narin et al teach a license management system wherein selected access rules can allow a group member to access a digital record and adjust the rights associated with the software license (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

17. As per claims 17-19, Narin et al teach a license management system wherein the group administration application is adapted to allow the production of reports concerning the software licenses of the group, part of a web based application and uses role based security (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

18. As per claim 20, Narin et al teach a license management system wherein configuration information for the computers running the software are stored in the digital records (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

19. As per claim 21, Narin et al teach a computer readable media comprising software to instruct a computer to do the steps of: maintaining digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses; in response to input to a group administration application, setting the access rules for members of a group, the access rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group; and using the access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

20. As per claims 22, 23, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein the access rules can be set to allow some group members to see but not to modify the software license data,

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to restrict access based upon inputted field information to some group members (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

21. As per claim 24, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein the inputted field information is a department field and the access rules are such that some group members can only access software license information associated with their department (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

22. As per claim 25, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein the group administration application can be used to require group members to input field data (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

23. As per claim 26, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein selected access rules can allow a group member to access a digital record and adjust the rights associated with the software license (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

24. As per claim 27, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein the group administration application is adapted to allow the production of reports concerning the software licenses of the group (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

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25. As per claims 28, 29, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein the group administration application is part of a web based application and uses role based security (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

26. As per claim 30, Narin et al teach a computer readable media wherein configuration information for the computers running the software are stored in the digital records (*see abstract, fig 11, paragraphs 0009, 0010, 0017, 0088, 0092, 0140-0154*).

Conclusion

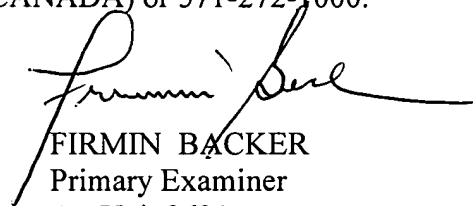
27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (*see form 892*).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FIRMIN BACKER whose telephone number is 571-272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



FIRMIN BACKER
Primary Examiner
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December 8, 2006